

Linn County Trails Association
Board Meeting
Monday August 8th, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on August 8th, 2016 at the Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building. . A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Paul Fiegen (President) Tom Peffer (Vice President) Keith Sutherland Brad Mullin (Secretary) Vicky Evans Leland Freie John Hager Steve Hershner Kevin Kirchner Ron McGraw Gary Palmer Larry Scott Kirschen Seah John Wauer Dick Woodward Kesha Billings Dan Biechler Randy Burke Dennis Goemaat Brandon Whyte

Guests:

Mike Wilson Jeff Westfield

Call to Order:

President, Paul Fiegen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the June board meeting were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved unanimously. *(There was no July meeting)*

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$116,883. The motion to approve the report passed unanimously.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen)

1. **Mayors' Bike Ride:** The ride is Monday, September 5th. There is a need for volunteers.
2. **Go Cedar Rapids: International Trails Symposium:** Go Cedar Rapids contacted LCTA about attending a meeting about Cedar Rapids hosting the International Trails Symposium in the future. Some LCTA board members met with the Go Cedar Rapids group. The group decided to pass on bidding for the conference in 2019 and try to host the event in 2021

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. **Linn County Conservation Department:** Randy Burke reported:

A. Hoover Trail- Ely City Hall to Johnson County Line at Seven Sisters Rd:

The County has received an MPO grant for \$760,000 to construct this final section of trail in Linn County. This section of trail is one-mile long. The north half of the trail is in Ely City Limits, and the 20% grant match is the responsibility of the City of Ely. The south half is the Conservation Board's

(LCCB), responsibility. The LCCB has an agreement with the Secondary Road Department to add or extend culverts and rough grade the south half of the trail at the same time and with the same contractor that is working on Ely Rd. Anderson-Bogert Engineers has completed the plans for the south half of the trail and are still finalizing the exact alignment and configuration for the north half. The City of Ely is working to complete an agreement with the LCCB for the work on the north half. Anderson-Bogert will complete a concept statement and a preliminary plan set for Iowa Department of Transportation review. A bid letting for grading the north half and paving the entire one mile will be set for January/February.

B. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving Schultz Road to Ash Lane:

This project is 3.5 miles of grading, ditching and paving. The estimated cost is \$1.2 million. The Conservation Board has received a \$600,000 State Recreational Trails Grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the project. The trail will be paved with asphalt from Schultz Road to Iowa Street on the south edge of Center Point. The remainder of the trail through Center Point will be concrete. The contractor plans to begin work in early August. Tentatively, the contractor would like to complete asphalt section to Iowa St. by November.

The trail will close for the paving project. The board discussed the possibility of the LCTA designing a preferred detour for the closure. The board decided to not to designate a single route, but provide a map so riders can determine their own route.

C. Red Cedar Mountain Bike Trail: - Squaw Creek County Park

This project involves the professional construction of a 1.5-2 mile section of single track Mountain bike trail at Squaw Creek Park. The County is working with the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA) on this project, and has received a \$55,000 State Recreational Trails Grant. The project will be re-bid in November and construction likely next year.

D. West Blue Creek Bridge Replacement Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

This project involves the replacement of a 270' long bridge approximately half a mile east of Interstate 380. This bridge is in extremely poor condition. Anderson-Bogert is working on the project with a letting anticipated for late fall and construction next spring, (April 2017). The preliminary estimate is \$750,000. The search for funding sources for the East Blue Creek Bridge replacement on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail is still underway. Earliest time frame is 2018-2019.

2. Marion:

a. **Marion Hotel/Motel Grant:** The Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee received \$8,000 in grant funding for two temporary bike racks, a fix-it station in Marion City Square and 16 permanent bike racks for several Marion Parks.

b. **The Marion Uptown Markets is Saturday, August 13th.** There will be a short ride at the conclusion of the Market.

3. CMPO: Brandon Whyte provided updates on the following projects:

1. **Cherokee Trail:** Design is underway, possible four phase project.

2. **Highway 100 Trail:** Project will need to be added to the CMPO Fiscally Constrained Plan before it can receive funds. Possibility of being two separate phases.

3. **Lindale Trail:** Will receive funding for right-of-way acquisition in 2016.

4. **10th Ave Side Paths (Marion):** Funded.

5. **Edgewood Rd. Trail: Ellis to O Ave:** Grading will happen Spring 2017, and construction later on that year.

6. Mt. Vernon Rd. Construction: Preliminary plans have bike lanes from 38th St. to the city limits of Cedar Rapids. http://www.cedar-rapids.org/local_government/departments_a_-_f/community_development/mt_vernon_road_corridor.php

7. Collins Rd Project: There has been a redesign of the project. John Wauer voiced concern that \$1.6 million in money appropriated for trail construction, for the original project, will not be returned for use for other projects. The board discussed the possibility of the LCTA providing a letter of support to the CMPO for re-appropriation of the trail funds. http://www.cedar-rapids.org/local_government/departments_a_-_f/community_development/collins_road_improvements.php

B.Trail Operations and Safety :

1. Dick Mundy furnished the following report:

PROPOSED FUNDING OF IMMEDIATE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY PROJECTS - TRAIL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

"Low-hanging fruit", in the words of Ron Griffith, i.e. projects that can be done quickly, easily, and at limited cost. Or, as proposed by John Wauer at the March board meeting, "LCTA should use available funds to encourage development and improvement of trails in a timely manner. These projects must shovel ready, within the LCTA budget, and not require separate fund raising."

LCTA's contribution would be contingent upon the jurisdiction agreeing to do the project promptly, i.e. LCTA hold out a carrot.

1. CVNT-B crossing > Install crossing light

- a. Jurisdiction: Hiawatha
- b. Location: Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Boyson Road crossing
- c.. Stop cars; allow bikes and pedestrians to cross Boyson to and from the trailhead on south side of street
- d. Similar to one installed on Lindale Trail crossing of Lindale Dr., Marion
- e. Rationale: 1) Very high usage- bikers, runners, walkers, commuters
2) Safety- great need; Boyson Rd traffic is very high at times
- f. Cost estimate, based on Marion project: \$25,000
> Proposal: LCTA contribute 20%

2. CRT path along and crossing of Center Point Road > Mark definitively

- a. Jurisd: Hiawatha
- b. North of the Emmons St/Robins Rd intersection with Center Point Rd. (CPR) there is no defined trail on the sidewalks on either side of CPR and especially no designated and marked crossing of CPR
- c. Safety: serious hazard for all users -maybe even greater than Boyson crossing, since the area is undefined
- d. Cost estimate: unknown
> Proposal: Contact Hiawatha a.s.a.p.

3. CRT bridge approaches north of J Av NE > Repair

- a. Jurisd: Cedar Rapids
- b. Bridges: 1) RR overpass north of Sylvia St/52nd St. NE
2) Creek behind Czech Square (creek)
3) Trail overpass by 29th St. NE
4) North side of Cedar Lake
- c. Rationale: 1) Concrete and asphalt where hard surface meets bridge settles yearly and must be filled.
2) Planks on bridges wear and warp, making the surface bumpy and hazardous; regular repair required
- d. This was in CR's plans for FY 2016
- e. Cost estimate: Unknown
- > Proposal: Contact CR a.s.a.p.

4. J Ave NE to McCloud Run trailhead > Repair, cracks and dips in surface

- a. Jurisd: CR
- b. Regular repair required- Asphalt overlay to eliminate dips, cracks, etc.
- c. Cost estimate: Unknown
- > Proposal: Contact CR a.s.a.p.

5. Shaver Road NE crossing > Paint bike lanes on both sides
> Trim vegetation on north side

- a. Jurisd: CR
- b. The painted cross walks on both ends of the bridge lead to the sidewalks, which are far too narrow for safe bike traffic.
- c. The hard surface next to the trail on the N side could be widened and improved.)
- d. Vegetation along both sides of the street impairs visibility
- e. Cost estimate: Unknown
- > Proposal: Contact CR a.s.a.p.

6. 16th Av bridge (Lions) > Make separate one-way E and W-bound trails on the S and N sidewalks, respectively

- a. Currently, the S sidewalk is the trail for both E- and W-bound bikes
- b. The sidewalks are really too narrow for two-way traffic, especially since pedestrians and fishing people use the bridge
- c. And the drop-offs from the sidewalks/trails are high and dangerous
- d. Cost estimate: Unknown
- > Proposal: 1) Make sidewalk on N side of bridge the W-bound trail from 1st St SE to A Ave SW, then cross 16th Av to connect to the existing diagonal trail into Sokol Park
2) Use current trail (S sidewalk of bridge) only for E-bound bikes

Keith Sutherland recommended that the LCTA Board authorize Dick to have discussion with the various jurisdictions and that LCTA endorse the list of projects provided by Dick.

New Business:

1. **Downtown Farmers Market:** Brad Mullin circulated sign-up sheets for the August 20th and September 3rd Downtown Farmers Market and the August 13th Marion Uptown Farmers Market. Upon consensus of the board, LCTA deferred on providing bicycle parking at August 27th Downtown Market After Dark.
2. **Linn County Bond Referendum:** Members of the Linn County Conservation Department presented the following information:

“On August 10, 2016, the Linn County Board of Supervisors approved a request by the Linn County Conservation Board to put on the Nov. 8, 2016 ballot a \$40 million, 20-year general obligation bond referendum to fund water quality and land protection, park improvements and trails, known as the Linn County Water and Land Legacy.

These priorities were identified through public engagement and input over the last two years as the Linn County Conservation Board gathered public input and developed long-term master plans for Linn County parks and natural areas. All expenditures would be publicly disclosed and projects would be guided by the master plans and managed by the Linn County Conservation Board.

A feasibility study conducted by The Trust for Public Lands found the cost to the average homeowner would be about \$27 per year, or \$2.25 per month if voters approve the bond referendum.

The Linn County Conservation Board would use more than half of the \$40 million for water quality and land protection. This includes protecting and enhancing watersheds and greenway floodplains to protect drinking water sources, buffer communities from flooding, provide floodwater storage to reduce future flooding, improve water quality, and protect fish and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Park improvement funding would add or improve existing park facilities to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. Trail funding would involve completing regional trail connections between communities and trail projects associated with existing trails and parks. Both park improvement and trail projects would be designed with emphasis on water quality, protecting drinking water sources, and ways to help reduce flooding.”

A request was made to the board for official support of the referendum, distribution information using the LCTA email list and the possibility of providing financial support of the support of the referendum. It was agreed that the board would take action on the matter at the September meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LCTA Board Meetings

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, September 12th, 6:00pm
Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, October 10th, 6:00pm
Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.